A True ACCOUNT of the

BEHAVIOUR, CONFESION, AND Laſt Dying SPEECHES

Of the Seven Criminals that were Executed at

TYBURN,

On *Friday* the Ninth of *May*, 1690.

ON the Lord's Day the Ordinary preacht twice, on the 3d *Verſe* of the 147th *Pſalm*, viz. *He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds.* Whence was obſerved, That Sin makes deep and deadly wounds in all the Souls Faculties, eſpecially in the Conſcience. It is a ſpreading and a deceitful, deſtructive wound, becauſe moſt men ſuffer it to ranck and feſter.

Then were laid down the Recital of ſuch Sins which do moſt wound the Conſcience, and grieve the Spirit of God; and for what Reaſons Sinners muſt be ſenſible of their ſinful ſtate, before they will apply themſelves to Chriſt for healing and renewing Grace.

On Monday the Ordinary inquired how their hearts were affected. They did one by one give ſome account, that they were ſenſible of their ſin and miſery. To which was reply'd, that there are many deceitful preſentes on which moſt men build their hopes of Future Happineſs, Therefore I ſtated the whole method of Salvation as clearly as I could to their mean Underſtandings, and found, that as they obtained more knowledge, they grew more ſenſible of their ſinful ſtate, and more fit for the healing comforts of Goſpel promiſes.

On Tueſday I required an Account, whether they did clearly apprehend the requiſite indiſpenſible Qualifications for Salvation; But finding that they did not, I ſtated the Nature of Evangelical Contrition, or true brokenneſs of Heart for and from Sin, how this differs from mere ſlegt Attrition in the convictions only of Conſcience without any change of corrupt Nature. Alſo I ſtated what are the Impediments of healing and renewing Grace, and urged on them many Arguments to come to Chriſt, for the binding up and healing their wounds in Conſcience. I laid down the Characters of true Faith and Repentance, that they might not be deceived with falſe hopes of Heaven. After much Diſcourſe with them ſeverally, they were diſmiſt with Prayer, and the ſinging of a penitential *Pſalm*. I viſited them every day till their Execution, and moſt days twice.

Now I proceed to give an Account of their former courſe of Life, and of what Hopes they had for a bleſſed Eternity.

Robert Wilgrove, condemned laſt Seſſions, and now ordered to be Executed. He confeſt that he knew the deſign of making a Mutiny in the Priſon, that they might quarrel with their Keepers, and make a forcible Eſcape. *Mr. Goodwin*, and one *Sexton*, with other Officers, coming to quiet them, the former of is ſince dead of his wounds. *Wilgrove* alſo acknowledged that he had been a great Sinner in ſlighting the admonitions of God's Miniſters, for which he is now heartily ſorry. He ſaid that he repents he did not abhor and watch againſt Sin; and that tho' he ſometimes prayed, yet he did not Ruin bad Company, which brought him to this untimely End. He ſaid he hoped God would ſhew him Mercy upon his Repentance. I ask'd him what true Faith is? He replied, It is the Gift of God, to enable a Sinner to relie only on Chriſt, and his Righteouſneſs, for Eternal Life. I told him that the Heart is very deceitful. He ſaid, that upon his ſearch of it, he finds that he abhors himſelf for the neglect of his Duty to God, in not hearkning to his frequent Calls of turning to him. And that if he might be ſpared, he would endeavour to amend his Life. Theſe words were a good profeſſion, but for the ſincerity of his heart, I muſt leave that to God's determination.

John Wilſon, Condemned for a Burglary with one *Elderſha*, aged 32 years, bred a Clothworker, in *Penny ſtone* Pariſh in *Yorkſhire*. He kept a Victualling-Houſe in *Kent ſtreet*. He ſaid he had many ways ſinned againſt God; I aſkt him wherein? But he did not declare expreſly in what Particulars, I told him, tho' he hoped Chriſt dyed for his Sins, yet he would not waſh away the guilt and defilement of any Sin, where it is not an heavy burthen on the Conſcience. If it were ſo, he would take the Shame of them, and acknowledge his Vileneſs in a more free and ingenuous manner. At laſt he ſaid, that he had been very diſobedient to his Parents, and that he had waſted their Eſtate to their great Damage and Grief: But that he will endeavour, to the utmoſt of his knowledge, to beg of God renewing Grace, and to ſettle his Soul-ſtate, that his Convictions may tend to a thorow Converſion in hating every evil work.

William Mann, condemned for ſtealing a Bay Gelding, was very penitent.

William Calvins, condemned for breaking open the Houſe of one *Thomas Baker* of *St. Mary le Bone*, was likewiſe penitent.

Jonas Ratcliffe Condemned for the ſame Crime, Aged 21 Years, Born in *Cripplegate Pariſh*, bred up to the Trade of a Butcher. He ſerved out his Apprentice-ſhip, and lately Liſted himſelf for a Soldier: he hath been Twelve-Months in that Service. He freely acknowledged, that he did not Pray that God would keep him from Temptations to Sin, and bad Company. He kept not the Sabbath, but was led aſide at firſt by one *Chriſtopher Jones*, and others, till he fell into this Crime. He did at times Drink to exceſs. But now he ſaid, he is ſorry for all his Sins, and begs of God a change of his Heart.

Philip Macquire Condemned for Twice Robbing on the High-way, Aged 24 Years, Born in *Ireland*, bred up the Trade of a Watch-maker; he ſet up for himſelf, and followed the ſaid Employment for Three Years, then he became acquainted with another High way Man, who ſollicited him to an Idle and Expenſive way of Living. He ſaid, that the Perſon's Name was *Burnet*: That he had been a great Sinner. That he ſeldom Prayed, and leſs Watch'd, againſt the Temptations of the World, and the Evil inclinations of his own Heart. But now being ſenſible of his ill life, it grieves him that he hath offended God, and tranſgreſt the Laws. Yet he hopes, that upon his Repentance, the Lord will fix him for his Death, and make it a means to ſave his Soul.

George Crawford Aged 36 Years, Born in *Scotland*. He Lived with his Father 12, or 13 Years, and ſince had been Employed in Military Affairs. He ſaid, that tho' he hated Quarrelling, and Intemperance, yet he had ſinned in other reſpects; for which God might juſtly be Angry with him, to ſuffer him to fall under the Sentence of Death. But now, he ſaid, that he was ſenſible of the Evil inclinations of his Heart, and the Miſcarriages of his Life; ſo that he is Vile in his own Eyes, and Abhors all manner of Sin. He Wiſh'd, that his Humiliation may tend and work to a thorough ſincere Converſion to God, and then he ſhall not count Death terrible.

Andrew Brown Condemned for Felony and Burglary, he is Aged 30 Years, was Born in *Surry ſhire*, and bred a Carpenter. He followed that Employment Three Years in *Red-Lyon-Fields*. But leaving his Trade, and taking to an Idle Life, he fell into Evil Company, and thereby Committed the foreſaid Crime. He ſaid, that he had been guilty of Swearing, and exceſs in Drinking, of which he now Repents; and for offending God, ſo that he hopes, thro' Chriſt's Merits, he ſhall make his Peace with God.

William Ralph Condemned for the ſame Burglary, Aged 23 Years, Born in *Glouceſter ſhire*, bred up to Husbandry. He acknowledged, that he broke the Sabbath, and was guilty of Swearing; but now he Repents that he led a diſſolute Life, and ſinned ſo long againſt God. That he will endeavour to the utmoſt ſo to ſpend his ſhort Life, that he may get the hope of being happy after his Death.

Wil-

William Bristow Condemned for the same Felony and Burglary, Aged 23 Years, Born in *Wilt-shire*, a Farryer by Trade, but lately hath been a Soldier. He said, it was his hard Fortune to fall into bad Company, I confess, (said he) was his own Corrupt Heart which led him made me commit the Crime. Had he resolved in God's Strength to have departed from all Iniquity, Sinning could not so easily, upon Incitement, prevailed with him. He said, that God was Angry with him for many Secret Sins, which have brought him to open Shame and Punishment. Yet he was not afraid to Dye, if true peace be made with God.

John Thompson Condemned for Robbing a Waggon on the High way, Aged about 20 Years, was Born in *Ireland*, but came over to *England* in Service with a Gentleman who fled hither for the Safety of his Person, being a Protestant. He said, he is sorry that he left the Gentleman's Service, about a Year since. So falling into bad Company he committed this Crime. He acknowledged the Just Hand of God upon him, for that he hath been guilty of most Sins excepting Murther. I hope he was Penitent, as willing to take Shame to himself for his Lewd Life.

William Elderkin Condemned for Felony and Burglary, Aged 24 Years, was Born in the Isle of *Ely*, a Wool Comber by Employment. After his Father Dyed he came to *London*, and was a Soldier under the Lord *Brunckard*; whilst his Father and Mother lived he kept the Sabbath, but grew loose afterward, notwithstanding his Good Education. He said, he did too often Swear, and was guilty of other Sins. That he hopes he now Repents, but said he, *It is not crying Lord, Lord, keep Mercy on my Soul, such only obtain this, who do the will of their Heavenly Father.*

In Charity, I think several of them were Penitent, but the Truth of Repentance requires some time of Tryal, in bringing forth meet Fruits thereof. For it is difficult to break off a Custom in Sinning, so that a late Repentance is most what Slight and False, as being more for fear of Death, than out of any true Love to God, or Hatred of Sin. But I must leave them to the Judgment of Him who only knows the Sincerity of Mens Hearts.

On *Friday* the 9th Instant, there were Eight of them put into Three Carts, in order to be Convey'd to the place of Execution, but being ascended *Holborn Hill*, or higher, there was a Reprieve overtook them, laying Claim to the Body of *Philip Maguire*, High-way-Man, which was returned to *Newgate*, *William Mann* being Reprieved in *Newgate* before Execution, who was put into the Dead Warrant the Day before, the other Seven being come to *Tyburn*, (viz.) *John Williams*, *William Collins*, *James Chambers*, *Justin Ratcliffe*, *John Thompson*, *William Elderkin*, and *Robert Hilgrove*; and the Ropes being placed about their Necks, Mr. Ordinary began to give them some kind and heavenly Exhortations, in order to their better and more safer passage to another world, desiring them freely to acknowledg their former Misdemeanors, (and Cruel, yet Desperate Adventures,) in a continued Race of Wickedness and Debaucheries. To which, *Ratcliff*, *Thompson*, *Elderkin*, and *Hilgrove*, seemed with an Unanimous Consent to adhere, the Four latter were very Penitent, especially *Hilgrove*, who Cryed out, *Gods Will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven, Come Lord and Receive thy Servant, who is ready to Depart; and willing to Dye.* After this he gave a Paper to Mr. Ordinary, the Contents of which was, *A Cordial Letter of Good Advice, and Heavenly Counsel*, from the Minister of *Chiswick*, sent him to *Newgate*, which he said, did mightily affect his Soul, hoping God would have Mercy on him, for that he had wronged the aforesaid Minister, by stealing by his Bed-side, whilst others of his Gang Robbed him: but Confest withal, that he did not Injure him any way. He begged of the People to Pray for him, saying, that he was heartily sorrowful for all the Evil he had done.

John Ratcliff was likewise very penitent, desiring all the Spectators to take warning by him, dying in the Communion of the Church of *England*.

William Elderkin, who stood Mute at first upon his Arraignment, was penitent, and dy'd a Protestant.

John Thompson for Robbing *John Rothal*'s Wagon, joined with *Hilgrove*, *Ratcliff*, and *Elderkin* in the Prayers and Exhortations of the Ordinary.

Now returns somewhat to be spoken as to the other three condemned Prisoners, Viz. *John Williams*, *James Chambers*, and *William Collins*, who all appear'd at the time of their Execution to be Papists, they visited often by the Ordinary. *Williams* spoke particularly, Dying, *That he dyed a Papist, and was always true to the Interest of the Late King James, denying the Fact for which he was condemned.* The other two said little, but Continued praying to themselves, by turning their Faces from the other Four before mentioned. Yet one thing may be Noted, whilst the Ordinary was praying with the other Four, *Collins* seem'd to attend devoutly, which *Williams* and *Chambers* check'd him for.

Afterwards the Penitential *Psalm* being sung, they were all turned off.

Let every True, Believing and Unprejudiced Protestant, of what Rank and Quality soever, See now what kind of Instruments, and Dubbed Gentlemen, the late King *James* has to work withal, no better than House-breakers, and Common Thieves, who have been fairly Convicted by our *English* Laws: Yea such Laws that King *James* himself must needs have made use of, for the Conviction of such Direful Miscreants as these were; if he had been seated in the Royal Throne, (which God forbid.) These, and such like, are the Men, that even when the Ropes are about their Necks, and just ready to be turned off, they will spit their Venom against the Face of the Government, and if it were possible Stone to Death all the Spectators. Yea the very Civil Officers who are ordered by Law to attend their Execution were affronted, the Prisoners Dying (as it were) like Mad men, putting a bold Face upon it, as if there were no Heaven to Condemn, nor no Hell to Torment, trusting only to the deluding Vanities of a vain hop'd for Purgatory. Which the laborious and never wearied Jesuits, and unair'd Popish Priests do always Buz in their Ignorant Ears, till they have them so fast, that they can never be unlinked, from the Cunning Devices, and Devilish Stratagems, of that Whore of *Babylon*, who has always been striving to make the Nations Drunk with the Blood of her Fornications, by joining their Gog and Magog's together, to undo, yea, (and if it were possible,) to deceive, the very Elect, which such silly Earth-Worms as these will not be sensible of, till they come to feel the dreadful effects of it, (in another World,) to their final and everlasting Destruction and Misery, from which dismal Sentence they can never be Redeemed.

This is the whole Account which I can give of this Session, tho' I visited them every day till their Execution.

Dated this 9th of *MAY*, 1690. *Samuel Smith* Ordinary.

Advertisements.

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London, Printed for *L. Curtiss* at the Sign of Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey's Head* near *Fleet-Bridg.* 1690.